LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF TOMPKINS COUNTY

http://www.lwvtompkins.org

SUMMER BULLETIN 2020
VOLUME II

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Mark Your Calendar
General Election, November 3, 2020

•October 9 is the last day to postmark your voter registration form

• October 10 is the last day to register to vote in person at your county Board of Elections office

• October 24 - November 1 Early Voting

• October 27 is the last day to postmark application for absentee ballot by mail.

• November 2 is the last day to apply in person for absentee ballot

• November 2 is last day to postmark absentee ballot.

• November 3 is the last day to deliver absentee ballot in person at board of elections

• November 3 General Election Day.

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government.

The league works to increase and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Any person 16 years and older, regardless of gender, may become a League member.

www.lwvtompkins.org
lwvtompkins@gmail.com
https://www.vote411.org/



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A message from your Co-Presidents
Submitted by Sally Grubb and Kay Wagner

Dear Friend in League,

100 years ago women received the right to vote! On August 18, 1920 Tennessee was the last state to ratify the 19th amendment and on August 26, 1920 this amendment became the law of the land. The Tompkins County Legislature honored these events by writing a proclamation that was read at the August 18 regular meeting of the Legislature. We now have a copy of the proclamation with the official county seal on it and a link to it is on our website. Carol Kammen, County Historian and both of us were invited to speak briefly at the meeting and we happily accepted. Kay spoke briefly about the origins of the League of Women Voters and recalled her mother's story of going to the polls at the age of six with her own mother in 1920. A story that will be passed down through the generations. Sally spoke about the women who helped found our League and the many others whose contributions to political life and work in the legislature have done so much for our community.

We hope that all of you celebrated the passing of the 19th amendment and the 100th anniversary of the League of Women Voters individually since we could not get together for an in-person party. Hopefully we can have a real celebration next summer when the amendment turns 101.

We are excited to announce that we are working with several members on the planning of a new website. 20+ years ago Mike and Linda Duttweiler took on the task of creating a website for our League following the requirements of the State and National Leagues. Since then they have been generously maintaining and regularly updating our website. Enormous thanks go to them. State and National have now relaxed their design regulations, so we can now have a much more serviceable and vibrant website with far more capability to provide for today's demanding times. Because LWVUS no longer requires us to use their format we look forward to making some major changes. A new website committee has been formed and additional members are welcome. We are very fortunate that a new member, David Quinn-Jacobs, has just the right background and expertise and is playing a key role in helping with the design of the new website.

We hope all of you are doing well in these very difficult times. We wish we could all get together in person but we will do what we can via zoom. Our next Board Meeting will take place on September 14th. All members are welcome to attend and we will send you the link so you can join us virtually.

Your Co-presidents,

Sally Grubb and Kay Wagner

Membership Letter 2020-2021

This year's membership letter was a joint effort, and it reflects the membership committee's perspective on the impact we can have as League members. We include it here as part of our membership report:

Each year as we approach a forthcoming election we remember again the power of our vote. The power that, a century ago, our grandmothers fought courageously for, often at great cost and joined, let us not forget, by the men who supported them. The vote is only powerful if we use it, in mass, and wisely. Thus we ask ourselves to rededicate our effort to bring about greater voter participation and an informed public by renewing membership in our League. It has never been more important. Leagues on the national, state, and here at the local level have been hard at work on Vote411, https://www.VOTE411.org, is a "one-stop-shop" for election information. It provides nonpartisan information to the public with both general and state-specific information on aspects of the election process, including voluntary statements from the candidates.

As the League of Women Voters celebrates 100 years, the National League has issued 100 ways to take action and make a difference before Election Day! Each of us can expect to do something. https://www.lwv.org/blog/100-days-and-100-ways-get-ready-election-day
Normally we would (be marching or have marched) on August 18, the anniversary of the 19th Amendment, with bright sashes, singing the songs of their Suffrage movement, and celebrating our achievements since then (look at the number of women elected to Congress and State houses in 2018, and a woman of color Vice Presidential candidate). The League would be planning to have voter registration tables at public events, public educational programs, and in-person candidate forums. Sadly, these are not normal times. Our League itself may face additional expenses while our usual in-person events budgeted for cannot take place.

Your interests and ideas are critical in assisting the League in achieving our goals in spite of these setbacks, so please indicate what they are on your enclosed membership form. If you are able to contribute an amount beyond dues, however small, be assured that it will be well used locally. Also contributions are always welcome to the new special scholarship fund to help those not able to meet the full amount of dues. If your membership has lapsed for that reason, the scholarship fund was created specifically to make every effort to see that no person who wants to be in League is turned away for lack of funds.

It is helpful to remember that times were similarly not normal 100 yearsago. The flu pandemic after WWI lasted into 1920, killing 200,000 by some estimates. In 1913, on the eve of Woodrow Wilson's inauguration, a suffrage parade drew 5 to 10 thousand to Washington (a large numberor that time). The Suffrage movement was now forced to find other methods to achieve their aim. That they did, using every opportunity to communicate by ways available to them: telegraph, mail, and newspapers ads. Now, after over 250,000 marched in Washington in 2016, the Covid 19 pandemic has forced us to search for other ways to reach out as well.

Thus we all join together now with courage and spirit to achieve our goals, just as the women and their male supporters did a century ago. It is sobering to acknowledge that, though there have been significant gains toward becoming equal partners in our country's future.

However, a severe problem of domestic violence costing women's lives, wage inequality, widening poverty in our country with an imminent threat of increased homelessness weigh heavily on our hearts and minds. Our health system is woefully inadequate, worse for many because of racism, another area of current great concern! Furthermore, the right to control our bodies is still under steady attack, as is the viability ofour planet, due among other things, to the use of fossil fuels.

That is where our relationship with other local Leagues throughout the country, organized under the States and National Leagues, becomes important to us. League members can and do helpmake the State and National policy decisions that inform The League's lobbying efforts. Yes, we can influence the decisions of States Legislatures and the United State Congress not only with the vote on election day. This too is a worthy local League effort. Recall that a good portion of our dues goes to the State and National League for their lobbying activity. Our league's Natural Resources and Health Committees are actively involved in that effort. Other Committees for study and influence would be more than welcome. Remember, your interests and ideas matter.

As always, you can find out what issues the League is working on. The IMPACT ON ISSUES right here https://www.lwv.org/impact-issues. Also despite these very different circumstances, National put on an amazing virtual convention, filled with commemoration, connection, and elebration. Much of it was posted online, you can view it here.
https://www.lwv.org/2020Convention.

Our full membership list, including contact information, is sent to State and National so that you may receive League communications. We will also be making this membership list available to Tompkins County Members. If you do not wish your contact information included on the local list please check this box on the membership form

.http://www.lwvtompkins.org/join.html

If we cannot join hands, we can join hearts, minds, and joint effort.

In League,
Lory Saltzman, Membership Chairperson
Kay Wagner & Sally Grubb, Co-Presidents

www.Vote411.com your source for ALL information about this year's elections including candidates, polling places, early and absentee voting opportunities and how to register to vote.

Vote411 is a key resource for voters this and every election. It provides up to date election information about how, when and where to vote. Launched in 2006, www.VOTE411.com has served as voters' "one-stop shop" for all the information they need to register and cast their ballots. Whether you're a first-time voter or a seasoned veteran at the ballot box, every election is different, and VOTE411 has all of the up to date information voters need.

"When I first contemplated joining the League of Women Voters, I attended an open meeting, held in the Tompkins County Public Library. There were tables with a space and a staff member for each endeavor supported by the League, including VOTE411. After they thoughtfully described the goals of the local pilot project, I was immediately sold on joining the League and volunteering to help," said Nancy Skipper, member of the Tompkins County League. "The idea of a single, non-partisan, non-commercial website where voters (or prospective voters) could find everything they need to know for local, regional, state and federal elections sounded too good to be true. It is a lot of hard work behind the scenes, but as a retired librarian, promoting easy access to accurate information has been my professional passion for decades!"

The presidential voter guide joins other useful voting tools, including a polling place locator, ballot lookup tool, and more. This is the first year that the League has asked the presidential candidates to respond in Spanish as well as English.

"For more than a decade, VOTE411.org has served over 30 million users, and in 2020 we expect to help over 6 million users," said Jeanette Senecal, Senior Director of Mission Impact at the League of Women Voters. "We're expecting unprecedented turnout throughout 2020 and we encourage voters to visit VOTE411 to learn about their candidates, find their polling place, and learn about early and absentee voting opportunities."

Throughout the 2020 election cycle, the League of Women Voters will work to register hundreds of thousands of voters, host hundreds of candidate debates and forums, and, for the general election, VOTE411 will provide customized ballot information for every voter in the country. To find the most up to date information on local forums and debates hosted by the League, please check http://www.lwvtompkins.org/voting.html

http://www.lwvtompkins.org/documents/VOTE411_release.pdf
Press Release sent on 9/8/2020

Voter Services Report
Submitted by Sally Grubb

Although we have not been able participate in the Ithaca Festival parade or do tabling at the Ithaca Festival and many other events this year, our members have been busy. Nancy Skipper, recently joined by new member Chris St.Clair, has been working on Vote411. Kathy Yen stepped down after several years of doing a wonderful job bringing our involvement in VOTE411 from a pilot project to full participation. Thank you, Kathy and Nancy. Members of the Voter Services Committee have been working as liaisons with Tompkins Cortland Community College, Ithaca College and Cornell University to encourage increased registration of students, staff and faculty, and also a much higher turn out to vote. Unfortunately, NY Pause has seriously impacted the work of the joint committee which was formed when all the students were sent home. We all worked together to encourage students to complete the census as if still living on campus and now we are supporting voter registration in any way we can although we are not allowed on either Cornell or IC Campuses. Kelly Curran has arranged for us to have a socially distanced voter registration table outside the TC3 entrance (in a covered area, in case it rains) for Monday, September 21st, and Tuesday, September 22nd, 10am to 2pm both days. She has arranged for a few faculty and staff volunteers to help attract and manage the students to support our volunteers organized by Connie Sterling Engman and Lucia Sciore. Lucia is also arranging for us to have a table on the Commons on September 22, National Voter Registration day, following all local health guidelines wearing masks and as far as possible social distancing. She will need volunteers to help staff this table.

Voter Services and Program committees are working together to remotely register voters, encourage absentee ballots and early voting, and to get out the vote. We are reaching out to the community through local libraries and, we hope, food pantries and other community hubs. Susan Multer has been working independently of the League on absentee ballots, and Voter Services has taken advantage of much of the work she has done. Check out the information now posted on our website at http://lwvtompkins.org/documents/voting_information.pdf and circulate to your friends.

Voter Services is also working with other local Leagues on candidate debates for the up-coming election. Local Leagues of Cooperstown, Cortland, Oneonta, Tompkins Co, and Mid-Hudson Region which serve areas that fall within NY Senate District 51, the seat from which James Seward is retiring, are co-sponsoring a debate with Spectrum Networks. Tentative date is October 1. Moderator will be Susan Arbetter. The two candidates are Peter Oberacker(R) and Jim Barber (D). If you have questions to submit to the candidates please forward them to lwvny51debate@gmail.com.

We have begun working with LWV of Cortland on a jointly sponsored debate for Assembly District 125. The candidates, Anna Kelles, (D), and Matthew McIntyre (R) have agreed to participate but no dates have been set yet.

Natural Resources Report
Submitted by Kay Wagner



The Natural Resources Committee has not met recently due to the restrictions imposed by the pandemic. But we plan to have a zoom meeting in September and hope that members who are not on our committee will join us. If you would like to attend, contact Kay Wagner (CMW18@cornell.edu). At this meeting we will discuss our focus of study for the coming year and whether we should try to hold a program or instead just spend the time learning and discussing information on one or two topics. Whether or not we hold a program, we will also start talking about actions our committee might take.

If you have looked at the LWV-TC website recently hopefully you saw our new additions to the Natural Resources page. This page now has a link called "Breaking News". We hope to keep the new page up to date by posting recent news items and events we think our members will find informative. The posts will usually contain a brief description followed a link to an article of interest. Check it out and please send Kay any items you would like to have us post. Megan is sharing many of these posts on our Facebook page.

Our committee is developing a list of interesting books about the environment. Some are wonderful books about nature, some are non-fiction books that examine a particular issue or aspect of our environment, and some are fiction that also educate us on particular environmental issues. So look at your bookshelves and send Kay the names of some books for our list.

Stay healthy and spend time outdoors enjoying nature!

Membership Report
Submitted by Lory Saltzman

Our League extends a hearty welcome to eight new members of our League as we begin the 101st year of the Tompkins County League of Women Voters! Unfortunately we will also sadly miss Honorary member Roger Livesay, League member for more than 50 of the past 100 years. Our gratitude for his loyal support and our deep sympathy for his loss go out to his wife Beverly, and daughter Jennifer. Our long-time members have been, and many still are, including Beverly, our inspiration and strenth as we begin the next 100 years.

The power of the Vote has never been more important, and this time of the year, in preparation for our effort to increase informed voter participation, our current members are asked to renew their membership once again. Current members, please do so quickly so that, as we vow to accomplish that goal without our usual in-person activities our local expenses are bound to increase over budget.

Finally a “Thank You” to folks who have indicated their interest in becoming members. We want to welcome you! So please make it bonifide by filling out a membership form indicating your interests. If you are wondering about membership dues, please understand that a large portion goes to the U.S. League, N.Y. State League. That amount funds the lobbying of Congress and the State legislature concerning issues important to our members. Those issues have been, and continually are, carefully researched and reached by League members democratically. It is interesting and easy to learn more about League issues. Go to http://www.lwv.org/impact-issues.

Finally, again, as we face the results of the pandemic, we have established a Scholarship Fund to assist members who indicate on the membership form that they now find themselves financially challenged. Members please donate to that fund if you can.

Be well all,
In League for the next 100 years!

State Parks Stabilizes Childhood Home of Suffragist Susan B. Anthony

On the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, which granted women the right to vote, State Parks and community leaders joined to celebrate a $695,000 stabilization project at the 19th century brick home in Washington County, where suffragist Susan B. Anthony spent part of her childhood.

Work at the deteriorated 1832 two-story brick home on Route 29 in Battenville where Anthony lived from ages 13 to 19 includes repairs to the roof, masonry and drainage, as well as mold remediation and water damage, is expected to be completed this fall.

State Parks has a purchase agreement on an adjoining four-acre site that contains a former historic tavern dating to the period when the Anthony family lived next door. Supported by the state Environmental Protection Fund, the $130,500 purchase will allow for future creation of adequate parking for the Anthony home and serve as a staging area for continued phased redevelopment of the building for an as-yet undetermined future use.

https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/centennial-passage-19th-amendment-governor-cuomo-announces-preservation-and-stabilization?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery



A Farewell to Roger Livesay

It is with great sadness that we tell you of the death of League member Roger Livesay on August 1. He and his wife, Beverly Livesay, have been longtime members of our League and Beverly has been one of our most dedicated members.

Over the years Beverly has been very active in our League, having particular interest in issues involving human services and local government. Throughout this time Roger was always very supportive of Beverly's work with both the League and local government. They were married for almost 70 years and he is survived by Beverly, his children Jonathan, Christopher, David, Jennifer and Elizabeth, his sister Elizabeth, 9 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. He will be greatly missed.

Roger was a mathematician who worked in the area of topology. He is remembered as a very congenial and helpful member of the department. A colleague recalls with a smile that upon walking into Roger's office you would see his desk covered with a mass of research papers. If you asked to borrow a specific paper, he would study his desk for a minute and then somehow extract the correct paper.

Roger was an excellent photographer and also played the violin very well. He was an outstanding tennis player, winning at the Tompkins County Men's Singles Open tournament from (at least) 1957-1960. This included a 1959 win over a Mathematics Department colleague, Gilbert Hunt (who was a former member of the U.S. Davis Cup team). Around 1962, Roger competed in the National Clay Courts Tennis Tournament in Chicago, succumbing to tennis legend Rod Laver.

Program Committee Report
Submitted by Ann Warde

The Program committee has been focused on working together with the Voter Services committee to Get Out The Vote in Tompkins County.

We developed a list of potential activities to pursue and are now focused on:
1) Working with people at TC3, Ithaca College, and Cornell to register students and to provide them with information about elections and voting;

2) Developing a flyer with information about how to register to vote and how to vote, which will be distributed to libraries and food pantries (to include in food boxes). The flyer is complete, with significant contributions from many people, including Sheila Stone, Susan Multer, Kay Wagner, and Sally Grubb.

How to Register to Vote

Get a registration form to register to vote for the first time, or to make changes to your registration such as change in address, name, or party affiliation.

For information go to https://tompkinscountyny.gov/boe/

To Print a voter registration form from the web go to https://tompkinscountyny.gov/boe/For_Voters/How_to_Register/Index_How_Do_I_Register ; fill it out; sign and date it; then mail to **Board of Elections (BOE) office at 128 E. Buffalo St., Ithaca, NY.**

Or **call BOE at 607-274-5522** to request a form be sent to you.

Or pick one up from the BOE in downtown Ithaca.

You may register online
at the Dept of Motor Vehicles website (the only place you can register on-line). Go to MY DMV (https://dmv.ny.gov/mydmv) – (You MUST have a NYS driver's License or Non Driver's ID card, and the last 4 digits of your SS#.)

Note: You cannot register to vote via e-mail or fax.



Over the last two months the League has advocated for the expansion of absentee voting options for the November election. **We are thrilled that our efforts were successful and now all New Yorker's have three ways to vote in the general election.**

1. Vote by Absentee Ballot:
Apply to vote by absentee ballot checking "temporary illness" on the application;
Apply to vote by absentee by mail, phone, or online: https://absenteeballot.elections.ny.gov/;
Apply to vote by absentee ballot (by phone, online or mail) by October 27;
Mail or return your absentee ballot by November 3 (absentee ballot will be mailed to you in late September or early October).

2. Vote Early:
Voters can vote early between Oct. 24 and Nov. 1;
Poll site locations and hours vary throughout the state;
Voters (except in NYC) can go to any early voting poll site in their county to vote early;
Find your early voting poll sites and poll site hours here: https://my.lwv.org/new-york-state/voting-2020-faqs

3. Vote on Election Day November 3
Polls are open 6:00 am to 9:00 pm;
Voters MUST go to their assigned Election Day poll site to vote;
Find your Election day poll site: https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov/

In New York State, voters are allowed to submit an absentee ballot and then decide to vote in person instead during early voting or on November 3 and their absentee ballot will be thrown out. Absentee ballots signatures are compared to poll book signatures from early voting and Election Day. Voters who are determined to have voted in person will have their absentee ballot disqualified.

Art Contest sponsored by Rejoice the Vote

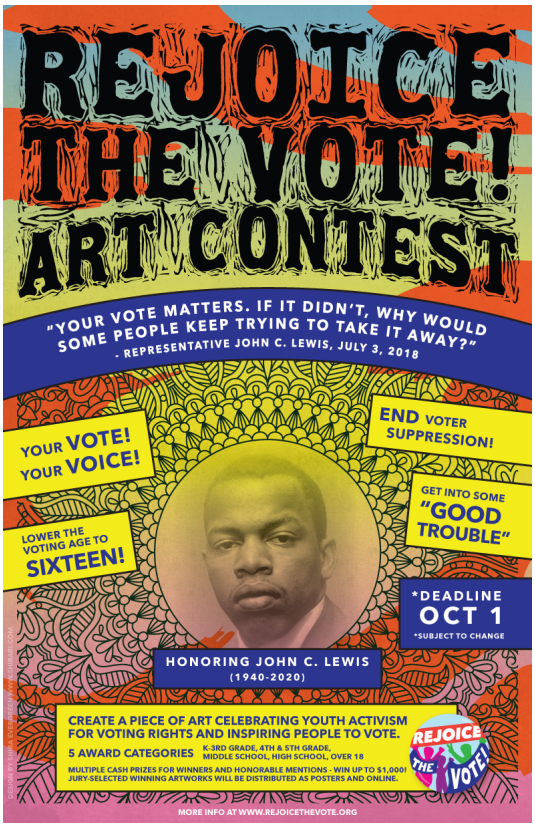
Rejoice the Vote is one of our amazing community partners. Please read below about a contest they are running, and contact them with any questions. The League is not involved.

With injustice and voter disenfranchisement rampant in our country, it is easy to become jaded. We believe that in spite of continued efforts at voter suppression, casting your ballot remains a powerful tool, a tool that we must embrace and celebrate if we want our country to one day fulfill its promise of justice and freedom for all.

Rep. Lewis (1940-2020) believed in the power of individuals and movements to change the course of history and earned the title of the "conscience of Congress." In his honor, we are excited to announce an art contest, open to all ages, whose goal is to increase voter turnout, especially among young people.

In addition to cash prizes winning designs will be printed on posters, shared on social media and made into t-shirts, and all submissions that meet our criteria will be included in an online gallery.

https://rejoicethevote.org/artcontest/
https://rejoicethevote.org/enter-the-contest/



How to contact your Representatives

Albany
SENATORS
James Seward
518-455- 3131; 607-758- 9005
www.nysenate.gov/senator/james-l-seward
51st—Towns of Groton, Dryden, Caroline, Danby



Pamela Helming
518-455- 2366, 315-568- 9816 helming@nysenate.gov
54th—Town of Lansing

Thomas O'Mara
518-455- 2091; 607-735- 9671
www.nysenate.gov/senator/thomas-f-omara
58th—Towns of Ithaca, Newfield, Enfield, Ulysses

Representative for Tompkins County in the NYS Assembly
ASSEMBLYWOMAN Barbara Lifton 518-455- 5444; 607-277- 8030
www.assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Barbara-Lifton

Washington DC.
SENATORS

Kirsten E. Gillibrand
202-224- 4451
www.gillibrand.senate.gov

Charles E. Schumer
202-224- 6542;
senator@schumer.senate.gov ;
www.schumer.senate.gov



REPRESENTATIVES:
Tom Reed
202-225- 3161; 607-654-7566;
reed.house.gov



The League of Women Voters of Tompkins County publishes this bulletin four times a year.

Previous bulletins can be found on our website at
http://www.lwvtompkins.org/bulletins.html

For information about our league go to
http://www.lwvtompkins.org/

Reach us by email at
lwvtompkins@gmail.com

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